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Letter dated 14 September 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1933 (2010), in which the Council expressed its intention to consider raising for a limited period of time, prior to and after the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, the level of authorized military and police personnel up to a total of no more than 500 additional personnel, which would raise the authorized overall strength of the uniformed personnel of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) from 8,650 to 9,150.

On 6 September 2010, the Ivorian parties announced that they had reached agreement on the final voters list. The presidential decree concerning the national identity cards and final voters list was signed by the President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, on 9 September 2010. The voters list is likely to be published by the Independent Electoral Commission early next week. The presidential elections are now scheduled for 31 October 2010; they are to be followed by legislative elections 45 days after the announcement of the results of the presidential elections.

As indicated in my previous reports, the responsibility for providing security for the elections rests in the first instance with the Ivorian Integrated Command Centre, with support from UNOCI and the French Licorne force. However, as previously indicated, the Ivorian security forces are not yet able to deploy the full complement of the agreed 8,000 personnel as mixed units in the Integrated Command Centre and also lack the capacity and means to effectively provide a secure environment for the elections. As at 2 September 2010, they were able to provide only 1,097 personnel to the Integrated Command Centre. Therefore, the recommended additional UNOCI military and police personnel are still required to reinforce the capacity of UNOCI to contribute to the security arrangements for the elections.

I had previously informed the Security Council that the Secretariat had explored various options for reinforcing UNOCI. As indicated in my report to the Council of 20 May 2010 (S/2010/245), the joint proposal by President Gbagbo and the President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré, to deploy, as part of UNOCI, up to 500 troops from Burkina Faso to reinforce security arrangements during the elections has not been further pursued by the two countries.

Consequently, the Secretariat has explored the possibility of augmenting existing military units and formed police units on the ground and identified willing troop- and police-contributing countries. A total of 300 troops (one company each

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from two existing francophone troop contributors) and 100 formed police unit personnel (from three identified existing police-contributing countries) would be deployed as soon as possible for a period of up to six months.

I recommend that the Security Council approve the course of action set out above. The Secretariat estimates that the cost of the deployment of the 400 personnel would amount to US $11.3 million. Although at this stage only 400 of the maximum number of 500 indicated by the Security Council in resolution 1933 (2010) for possible approval would be deployed, it is important to temporarily raise the authorized strength of the mission by the full 500 uniformed personnel from 8,650 to 9,150 as a contingency measure. In addition, the Secretariat is exploring the possibility of deploying an aviation unit to UNOCI comprising up to two helicopters for a period of up to three months.

I should be most grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I would also greatly appreciate an urgent decision by the Council, as soon as the final voters list has been published by the Independent Electoral Commission, to ensure that the additional personnel are deployed in sufficient time prior to the elections of 31 October 2010.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon